was sanctioned two years ago; and

(b) if not, is it being diverted to the self-propelled 155 mm weapon system presently under testing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of Krasnopol shells from Russia

621. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a conditional contract with KBP Instrument Making Design Bureau of Russia for 1000 laser-guided 155 mm Krasnopol/M rounds, agreeing to pay them a 20 per cent advance;

(b) whether it is a fact that the shell in this case failed to perform adequately during high altitude trials in Kashmir recently; and

(c) was there any middle-man involved in contract for Krasnopol shells?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Shells have been trial evaluated, both in plains and high altitude areas. The final Evaluation Report based on these trials has not yet been received from the Army HQrs.;

(c) The Contract has a specific Clause prohibiting engagement of agents which also *inter alia* provides that if at a later stage it is discovered that the supplier had engaged any agent, the Contract can be cancelled and the firm would also be liable to be debarred from any supply contract for five years.

Payment of Compensation at Same Rate

622. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have declined to pay compensation to the bereaved families of those Army personnel at the same rate of Kargil martyrs though they sacrificed their lives in Kargil sector in post-undeclared war situation; and

(b) will Government consider to pay compensation at the same rate to all the bereaved families of those Army personnel, who sacrificed their lives at Kargil sector irrespective of time limit?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) As per extant Government orders, ex- gratia compensation is paid to the next of kin of battle casualities on the follwing rates:—

(i) Death occurring (a) due to accidents in the course of performance of duties and (b) in the course of performance of duties attributable to acts of violence by terrorists, anti-social elements etc. Rs. 5 lakhs

(ii) Death occurring (a) during border skirmishes and (b) action against militants, terrorists, extremists etc. Rs. 7.5 lakhs

(iii) Death occurring during enemy action in international war or such war like engagements which are specifically notified by Ministry of Defence. Rs. 10 lakhs

The Kargil operation was treated as a war-like engagement and therefore, ex-gratia of Rs. 10 lakhs was paid to the next of kin of those killed in the said operation for the period from 1st May, 1999 to 31st October, 1999. Now that the war-like situation in Kargil is over resulting in the reduction in the levels of risk as well as intensity of action involved, ex-gratia of Rs. 7.5 lakhs, as in case of death occurring during border skirmishes is being paid to the next of kin of soldiers who sacrifice their lives in Kargil.

Military Training for Students

623. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) wl.ether it is a fact that the system of compulsory military training to all the students irrespective of their sex is followed in many nations all over the world;

(b) if so, the name of the nations where military training is being imparted; and

(c) whether Goverr.ment would consider introducing such a scheme in India?